

CELEBRATING THE VIENNA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NARFE)

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Chapter 1116 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), located in Vienna, Virginia.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a multi-tiered, political, nonpartisan organization dedicated to preserving the earned retirement benefits of all federal civilians. Membership eligibility includes current, former, and retired federal civilians, as well as their spouses and survivor annuitants. Chapter 1116 is one of over 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Vienna chapter hosts speeches from state and local officials as well as those running for specific offices. NARFE officers from state and national organizations address issues of interest to those retired as well as the general public. Musical programs, talks and discussions about home and garden maintenance as well as historical and cultural issues add variety to the meetings.

Currently, the Vienna chapter has 668 members under the leadership of president Ginger King and first vice-president "Van" Van Huizen. The chapter prides itself on approaching all issues in a realistic and humanitarian manner. Its members have worked tirelessly for the benefits of federal retirees and all elderly, cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies to do so. Members assist shut-in seniors and provide convenience items and comfort to those in retirement homes. On a national level, NARFE contributes to Alzheimer's research and sponsors a college scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate NARFE Chapter 1116 on 35 years of success. They have become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of their members and their community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the chapter members' past accomplishments and in wishing Chapter 1116 the best of luck in the many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WARINER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate Jeremy Wariner, of Grand Prairie, Texas, in his success in these past Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Jeremy won the Gold in the Men's 400 meter run with a time of 44.00, the fastest time in the world this year. He also captured a gold medal in the 4x400 relay competition. At the 2004 NCAA Indoor Championships, Wariner, a junior at Baylor University, won the 400m with a time of 45.39 seconds and won an NCAA title with the 4x400m relay team. His remarkable performance brought tremendous accolade to America, and we thank him.

Jeremy exemplifies the spirit of an Olympic champion, and I am so proud to recognize him here today, as a Texan, an American and a gold medal champion.

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I will vote against legislation that would create federally funded youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and treatment programs authorized at \$82 million over three years.

At a time when we have the largest deficit spending in history, I'm reluctant to start yet another federal program. Additionally, the states that are having problems, rather than the federal government, should be making the decisions of how much help and what kind of help should be initiated to reduce the problem of youth suicide.

FREEDOM FOR FÉLIX NAVARRO RODRÍGUEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Félix Navarro Rodríguez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is a member of the Democratic Solidarity Party and an independent journalist. He was also a school headmaster before he was fired by the totalitarian regime that mandates propaganda in place of truth. As a teacher who was trained to mold young minds, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez could no longer abide the practice of teaching lies and spreading deceit. After being fired for his beliefs, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez became a peaceful pro-democracy activist, focusing his energies on writing and reporting on the true nature of the totalitarian dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez has been subjected to harassment and detention for his pro-democracy activities since at least 1992. In November 1996 he was questioned by regime thugs for allegedly not paying union dues and having a copy of the newspaper "El Nuevo Herald" at his work. It has also been reported that he was detained in November 1999 and September 2001 for participating in a commemoration for two political prisoners who perished in Castro's gulag.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's crack-down on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez was arrested. In a sham trial, he was convicted on activities that included, "among other things, leaflets and literature; the latter was proved by the confiscation of aggressive and corrosive writings and printed material from his house." This sham trial resulted in Mr. Navarro Rodríguez being sentenced to 25 years in the abhorrent totalitarian gulag.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez was able to send a message of strong support for President Bush's Cuba policy initiatives from his cell in the totalitarian gulag. In that cell, Félix Navarro Rodríguez personifies the heroism and perseverance of the Cuban people and their admirable commitment to see freedom reign in Cuba.

Let me be clear, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is locked in sub-human conditions for writing and owning printed materials that contain facts and truth. Simply because he does not subscribe to the lies and propaganda forced upon the nation of Cuba by the communist tyrant, he is locked in a dank dungeon.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is languishing in the repulsive squalor of the tyrant's gulag because he believes in truth and freedom. It is detestable that at the dawn of the 21st century, and a mere 90 miles from our shore, honorable men and women are imprisoned in repugnant gulags for believing that all men have an inherent right to live in freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Félix Navarro Rodríguez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALEXANDER CITY ALL-STARS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of young people in my Congressional district from Alexander City, Alabama.

On July 19, 2004, the Alexander City All-Stars traveled to Atmore and won their second straight state baseball championship. I am particularly proud of these talented young people for their accomplishments, and especially proud to note the team's unique accomplishment of winning back-to-back state titles.

The names of the youths who earned this achievement are as follows: Trey Bennett, Griff Gordon, Dylan Johnson, Larry Kemp, Douglas Kimbrough, Thomas Lutz, Elliot Mahan, Clay Phillips, Timothy Phurrough, Luke Smith, Gage Whiteard, and Levi Wilson. Their coach is Marlin Smith.

As the House goes about its business today, let us remember these gifted young people for their accomplishments, and congratulate them on this remarkable and memorable occasion. They are indeed All Stars for our community, and I am proud to acknowledge them in the House today.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN WALKER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to express my sorrow for the passing of a dear personal friend and pillar of the community in southeast Texas and Gulf Coast, Mr. John Walker. John passed away suddenly this past weekend, leaving many of